

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on February 23, 2006,¹ the Examiner objected to the drawings; objected to the specification; and rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0016841 to Karasudani ("*Karasudani*").

Applicant has amended the specification and amended claims 1 and 2. Claims 1 and 2 remain pending in the above-captioned patent application.

The Examiner objected to the drawings because they allegedly include "the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Fig 4c, 5a, 5b and 5c" (Office Action at 2). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertions.

Applicant notes that the specification, beginning on page 1, line 31 and extending through page 2, line 29, discusses Figures 5A, 5B, and 5C. In addition, the specification describes Figures 4A and 4B beginning on page 7, line 31 and extending through page 8, line 9. Furthermore, Applicant notes that page 8, line 9 should read "Fig. 4C" in stead of "Fig. 4B." This typographical error has been corrected as indicated in the Amendments to Specification section of this Reply. Figure 4C is discussed in the specification at page 8, lines 7-9. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the specification indeed discusses Figures 4A-4C and 5A-5C, respectively. Applicant therefore requests the examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Applicant has amended the specification in order to correct the typographical errors identified by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action. Other errors have also

¹ The Office Action may contain statements characterizing the related art, case law, and claims. Regardless of whether any such statements are specifically identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statements in the Office Action.

been corrected. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Karasudani*. To properly establish that a prior art reference anticipates a claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every element of the claims in issue must be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in the single prior art reference.

Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is not anticipated by *Karasudani* because the reference fails to teach each and every claim element of the claim. In particular, *Karasudani* at least fails to teach the claimed combination of determining "if the cluster number of a target cluster to be read is recorded in said cluster table" and determining "if said cluster number of said target cluster to be read is not recorded in said cluster table," as recited in amended independent claim 1.

The Examiner alleges that paragraph 0032 in *Karasudani* discloses determining if the cluster number of a target cluster is or is not recorded in the cluster table (Office Action at 4). *Karasudani*'s disclosure of unit-record area numbers corresponding to the unit record area to which desired individual data of the object file is allocated, or near where desired individual data of the object file is allocated, respectively, does not mean that the system must determine if the cluster number of a target cluster is or is not recorded in the cluster table.

Karasudani discloses a system that decides whether or not to use a jump table to access a cluster to which desired data is allocated. *Karasudani*, paras. 0128-0132; Figure 6. The system decides not to use the jump table when an absolute value of the

difference between a desired cluster offset and a current cluster offset does not exceed a distance in the jump table. *Karasudani*, paras. 0122-0125, 0129; Figure 6, steps B40, B70. The system decides to use the jump table when either the difference between a desired cluster offset and a current cluster offset is negative or the absolute value of the difference between a desired cluster offset and a current cluster offset is greater than or equal to the distance in the jump table. *Karasudani*, paras. 0124-0125, 0130-0132; Figure 6, steps B30, B40. Once *Karasudani* decides to use the jump table, the "jump table retrieving section 75 sends back the retrieved cluster number to the cluster retrieving section 72, which then travels around the individual entries of the FAT one after another from the cluster number (11)...to the desired cluster number (2A) (step B60)." *Karasudani*, para. 0131; Figure 6, step B60. *Karasudani* is completely silent with respect to a decision step that identifies whether a cluster number is or is not recorded in the jump table.

Moreover, determining whether to use a jump table to access desired data and sending back the retrieved cluster number, as disclosed by *Karasudani*, does not constitute determining if the cluster number of a target cluster is or is not recorded in the cluster table. Thus, *Karasudani* fails to disclose the claimed combination of determining "if the cluster number of a target cluster to be read is recorded in said cluster table" and determining "if said cluster number of said target cluster to be read is not recorded in said cluster table," as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that *Karasudani* does not disclose each and every limitation of amended independent claim 1, and amended claim 1 is

therefore allowable over *Karasudani*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that independent method claim 2 recites subject matter paralleling the elements of independent apparatus claim 1, and is allowable at least for the reasons presented above for independent apparatus claim 1.

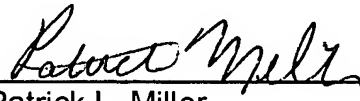
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 23, 2006

By: 
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